GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:561
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
NATIONAL POLICY ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any national policy/scheme for the benefits of freedom fighters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the new policy is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government had introduced a scheme known as "Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners Scheme" in 1969 under which pension was sanctioned to such freedom fighters who had suffered imprisonment in the Celullar Jail, Port Blair (Andman Islands) for a minimum period of five years. In 1972, on the occasion of 25th Anniversary of India's Independence, a regular "Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme" was introduced covering all categories of freedom fighters. This Scheme was liberalized and re-named as "Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980". The salient features of the Scheme are given in Annexure.

(c) & (d) : Do not arise.

Annexure

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 561 FOR 20.11.2007 REGARDING NATIONAL POLICY ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

I. Eligibility for grant of Samman Pension

The following categories of freedom fighters are eligible for Samman Pension.

(a) A person who had suffered a minimum imprisonment of 6 months in connection with the Freedom Struggle. (three months in the case of women and SC/ST freedom fighters).
(b) A person who remained underground for six months or more.
(c) A person who was interned in his home or externed from his district for six months or more.
(d) A person whose property was confiscated or attached and sold due to participation in the National Freedom Struggle.
(e) A person who was permanently incapacitated during firing or lathi charge.
(f) A person who lost his Government job (Central/State Government, including job in local bodies) and thus was deprived of means of livelihood for participation in the National Freedom Struggle.
(g) A person who was awarded the punishment of 10 strokes of caning/flogging/whipping.

2. If the Freedom Fighter covered by any of the above categories is not alive, then any one eligible dependent viz, the widow/widower, unmarried and unemployed daughters, mother and father shall be eligible for the dependent family pension.

3. Any one dependent of a martyr i.e. person who died or was killed in action or in detention or was awarded capital punishment, while participating in the National Freedom Struggle including Indian National Army (INA) or ex-Military person who died while fighting against the British will also be eligible for Samman Pension.

II. Rate of Pension

The current rate of pension and dearness relief payable per month to various categories of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given below:

S. No.	Category	Basic Pension (Rs.)	Dearness Relief (currently 68% of the basic pension)

(Rs.)

i(a) Ex-Andaman political prisoners	7,330/-	4,984/-
(b) Freedom fighters who suffered outside British India (other than Indian National Army)	6,830/-	4,644/-
ii. Other freedom fighters(including Indian National Army)	6,330/-	4,304/-
iii. Widow/widower of above categories of freedom fighters	Entitlement same as of respective deceased freedom fighter	Entitlement same as of respective deceased freedom fighter
iv. Unmarried & unemployed daughters (upto three)	1,500/- each	1,020/- each
v. Mother and father	1,000/- each	680/- each

III. Other Facilities

(i) Free railway pass (1st Class/AC 2nd Class Sleeper) for freedom fighter and widow along with a companion for life;

(ii) free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and in hospitals run by Public Sector Undertakings under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. Central Government Health Scheme facilities have also been extended to freedom fighters and their dependents;

(iii) telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges, and on payment of only half the rental;

(iv) general pool residential accommodation (within the overall 5% discretionary quota) to freedom fighters living in Delhi;

(v) widow/widower of the freedom fighter is permitted to retain the accommodation for a period of six months after the death of the freedom fighter; and

(vi) accommodation in the Freedom Fighters' Home set up at New Delhi for freedom fighters who have no one to look after them.

(vii) In addition to the above facilities, ex-Andaman freedom fighters are also entitled to the following facilities:

(a) free voyage facility for freedom fighter and widow, to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion; and
(b) free air travel facility for freedom fighter, to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion.

(viii) All major facilities provided to freedom fighters are also extended to their widows/ widowers.